

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082048
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DRAFTED BY: S/S:PSEBASTIAN

APPROVED BY:S/S-MR SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 082048

NODIS

CHEROKEE WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 534 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 12 APR

QTE

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 0534

NODIS - CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN BOTHA: MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 0533; (B) CAPE TOWN 0503;
(C) STATE 070649

1. AFTER FONMIN BOTHA FINISHED TALKING ABOUT THE FIVE-
POWER DEMARCHE (REFTEL A), HE TURNED TO HIS MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER. HE SAID IN CONVERSATION WITH PM VORSTER
THIS MORNING, PM HAD RAISED QUESTION OF HOW THE FIVE-POWER
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DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA AND THE OWEN MISSION ON RHODESIA
AFFECTED THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER TO SEND A SPECIAL EMISSARY
TO SOUTH AFRICA. SPECIFICALLY, HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER
THE TWO OTHER NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN LIEU OF OR IN ADDITION
TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER. I TOLD HIM I WOULD SEEK
GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT. I WENT ON TO ASK HIM IF THERE
WERE ANY SPECIFIC REACTIONS BY THE PM TO THE PRESIDENT'S

OFFER WHICH I SHOULD CONVEY TO WASHINGTON. HE
RESPONDED: "AFTER I REPORTED FULLY TO THE PM ON
MY DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, THE PM IS VERY
MUCH INTERESTED IN CONTINUING THE BILATERAL TALKS AND
IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT."

2. BOTHA THEN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF RHODESIA.
HE SAID THAT HE HAD JUST COME FROM A
LONG SESSION WITH IAN SMITH. HE SAID HE THOUGHT SMITH
WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO FONSEC OWEN AS LONG AS THE LATTER
DID NOT LECTURE TO HIM. BOTHA SAID THAT HE HAD SOME
DISTURBING INTELLIGENCE ABOUT OWEN'S STYLE IN THIS
REGARD WHICH COULD EASILY PUT OFF SMITH AS WELL AS HIS
OWN PM. I TOOK OCCASION TO REPEAT TO BOTHA POINTS I
MADE YESTERDAY TO FOURIE ABOUT OUR SUPPORT FOR THE OWEN
MISSION (STATE 080348). BOTHA WENT ON TO SAY THAT AS
INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM, SMITH CONTINUES TO HARBOR
EXPECTATION THAT WHEN CHIPS ARE REALLY DOWN, USG
WILL COME TO HIS RESCUE. AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF
THE RHODESIAN MENTALITY, BOTHA SAID THAT LAST NIGHT HE
HAD RECEIVED CALL FROM HIGHLY PLACED PERSON IN SALISBURY
SAYING THAT THERE WERE NOW 17 RF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
READY TO BREAK AWAY FROM SMITH IF THE SAG WILL GIVE
ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE RESISTANCE EFFORT.
BOTHA SAID HE TOLD SMITH AS WELL AS SALISBURY CALLER
THAT THEY WERE COMPLETELY WRONG IN THIS ASSUMPTION
AND THEY SHOULD FORGET ABOUT AMERICAN OR SOUTH
AFRICAN INTERVENTION.

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3. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON WHAT I SHOULD SAY TO FONMIN
ABOUT THE PM'S QUERY ON THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER.
BOWDLER UNQTE VANCE

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